Loss of imported base oil

*231. SHRI ANAND SHARMA;
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 462 tonnes of imported base oil has been lost in transit from a consignment of 1100 tonnes ordered by M/s. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in September, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are ihe details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) BPCL has reported short receipt of approximately 547 tonnes of imported base oil out of total quantity of 1477 tonnes stated to have been pumped by tanker "Nand Smriti" through their pipeline on 26-9-1987. The sholrt receipt could be due to incorrect accounting at point of discharge/receiving installation or disposal of some quantities on the High Seas before arrival or during discharge at the Port apart from a possible leak in the pipeline. According to preliminary investigations, possibilities of a pipeline leak or incorrect accounting at receiving end have not been considered likely.

Further detailed investigations are underway along with other concerned organisations like Indian Oil Corporation and Bombay Port Trust to identify the reason for loss. BPCL has been asked to expedite the enquiry.

Construction of Bakreshwar Thermal Power Plant

232. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the proposed thermal power plant at Bakreshwar will be built by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in collaboration with the Soviet Union for which Government held talks recently;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the West Bengal State Government who wanted to construct this plant were not allowed to be associated with the talks; and

(c) if so what are the reasons for entrusting construction job to NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) At present, the alternatives for implementation of the Bakreshwar project are being considered and have been discussed with the Government of West Bengal.

(b) Recently, a meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group on Power was held in Moscow. The Working Group is composed of the representa tives of the Government of India and of the U.S.S.R Government:

(c) Does not arise.

Recognising cinema as an industry

233. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Film Federation of India has urged the Government to recognise film making activity as an industry in keeping with the recommendations of various Government bodies and the working group on national film policy; and

(b) if so what is the Government's reaction in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) A request for declaration of film industry (viz: film making, distribution and exhibition) as an industry has been received.

(b) The Government are not considering to declare cinema as an industry in view of the fact that the IDR Act applies to industrial undertakings consisting of factories where a manufacturing process is carried on.

Setting up of power Finance Corporation

*234. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Mnister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a Power Finance Corporation to finance the power projects in the Central Sector as well as under the State Electricity Boards;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when this Corporation ia likely to be launched and what shall be its scope and financial outlay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) to (c) The Power Finance Corporation has already been incorporated with the objective of providing term finance for power projects. It has an authorised share capital of Rs. 1000 crores and paid-up capital of Rs. 30.40 crores. It is presently engaged in mobilising additional resources through issue of bonds.

Maintaining adequate staff in O.I.Lr. Headquarters in Assam

235. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 147 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 9th November 1987 and state:

(a) what is the number of staff members in Delhi who are likely to be affected by the proposed move; and

(b) whether any provision for the maintenance of an adequate staff at the new headquarters in Assam has been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) About 15 executives are likely to be transferred to Duliajan.

(b) Necessary arrangements are being made.

Sale of imported bulk drugs

*236. SHRI M. KADHARSHA-

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

' Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have exempted the sale of imported bulk drugs from price control to different categories, of importer under the Drugs Prices Control Order, 1979;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under DPCO, 1979, prior price approval was required for selling imported bulk drugs; and

(c) if so, how such an action will stimulate production of drugs in the country and prevent undue increase in the prices of drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. "But under DPCO, 1987, all de-controlled Bulk-drugs have been so exempted."

(b) Yes. Sir.

(c) Monitoring prices of imported controlled drugs would be done with reference to the provisions contained in the DPCO, 1987 and that of the prices of non-controlled drugs would